

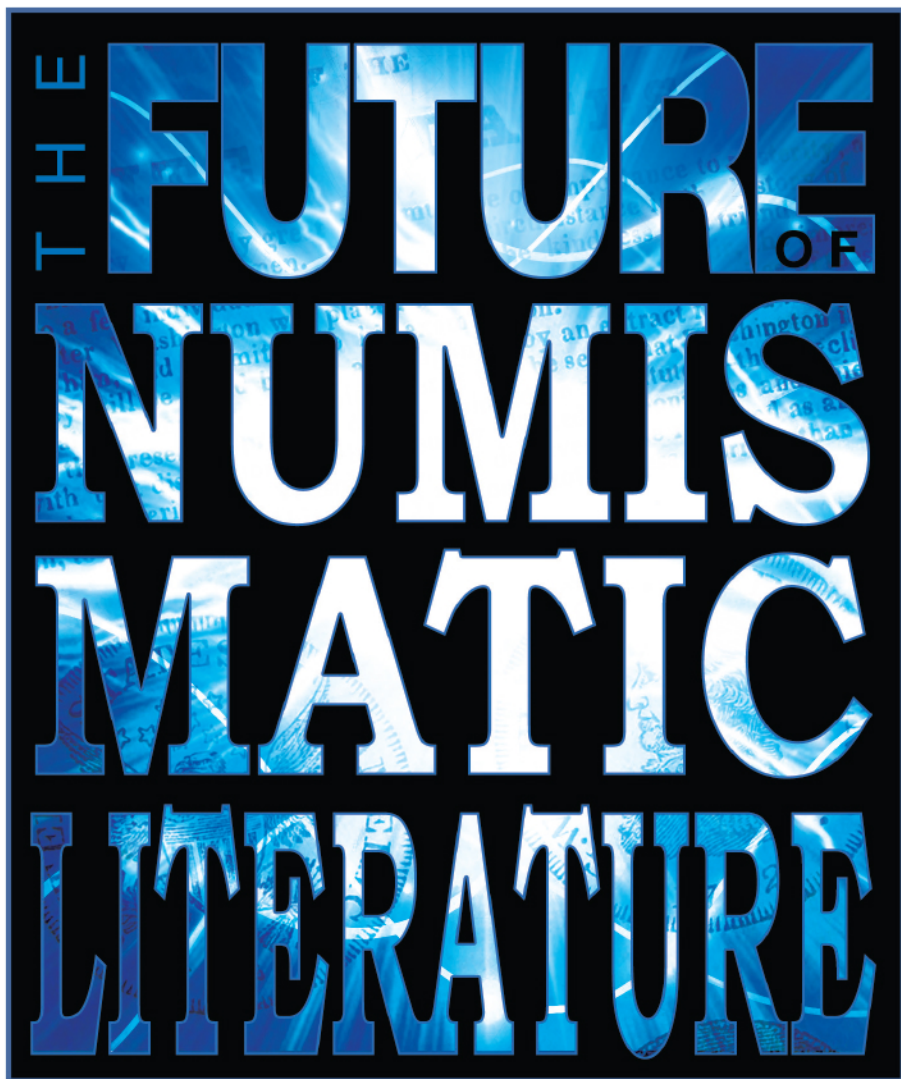
THE Asylum

VOL. 34 NO. 3



AUTUMN 2016

Quarterly Journal of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society • COINBOOKS.ORG





Kolbe & Fanning

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*Books are the compasses
and telescopes and
sextants and charts
which other men have
prepared to help us
navigate the dangerous
seas of human life.*

Jesse Lee Bennett
1885–1931



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Submissions: *The Asylum* (ISSN 1552-1931) is published in four issues per year. Submissions should be sent to the editor at nbsasylum@gmail.com. Authors, please put your name(s) and contact information on all submitted material. All accepted manuscripts become the property of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society. For more information, please contact the editor.

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Maria Fanning,
The Asylum Editor

From the Editor

The Future of Numismatic Literature—Special Issue

Since entering the world of numismatic literature I have heard various opinions on what its future might be—some very optimistic and others wary of the direction it seems to be headed. Since becoming the editor of *The Asylum* I have had more discussions with passionate NBS members and have asked several from various aspects of the field to share their thoughts on the future of numismatic literature for this special issue. I have attempted to include as many viewpoints as possible, asking collectors, researchers, librarians, authors and booksellers to share their opinions on where numismatic books fit into our changing world.

While digital media is growing at an ever-expanding rate, the value of artisan, hand-crafted and vintage objects also increases. Where does that leave collectors and students of history like us? Does the digital world eclipse artifacts from our past or does it help to enhance our understanding of history? Will open access to obscure information increase interest in numismatic books and catalogues or render them worthless?

The struggle is evident in the greater world as well, as laws defining copyright and piracy are debated and artists and podcasters create careers by giving their work away for free. Students have more access to information than ever through use of the internet in their classrooms while teachers place historical artifacts and original source material in their students' hands to forge a connection with the past.

My hope is that this issue will be a starting point for fine-tuning our approach to the new global environment and encouraging more open discussion of the advantages and dangers of the use of new technologies in collecting and researching. Of one thing I am certain—everyone who has an opinion about the future of numismatic literature cares very deeply about sustaining it and has made the preservation of history a priority in their hearts.

Numismatic Bibliomania Society Symposium

August 11, 2016 • Anaheim, California

by Joel J. Orosz

The Numismatic Bibliomania Society's 2016 Symposium was held on Thursday, August 11, 2016, at the Laguna B Room of the Anaheim Hilton. NBS President Marc Ricard introduced the speaker, Mr. Fred Holabird, as a mining geologist by profession, a dealer in Western Americana by trade, and President of the Tokens and Medals Society by avocation. Holabird then provided the Symposium's 20 attendees with an extended meditation upon his approach to the process of numismatic research and publication, which he entitled "Thinking Outside the Box."

It quickly became evident that Holabird intended to deliver on the promise of his title. Turning conventional wisdom on its head, he asserted that it is not difficult to find a publisher, for both content providers and the reading public crave high-quality information. In order to provide such information, however, it is essential to adhere to several precepts, some of which are traditional and relatively obvious, others of which are non-traditional and rather subtle.

Holabird began with the obvious overarching framework for excellence in research and writing: the necessity of answering the traditional questions of "who, what, when, where, why, and how much?" From there, however, he shared some more nuanced rules for producing superb work:

1. Remove your blinders and track laterally. You must be open to seeing old problems in new ways, and to understanding how the surrounding context affects your findings.
2. Read everything. Formal finding aids are only the beginning; you must often pursue information relentlessly with the aid of archivists, curators, and non-traditional sources of printed and/or digital information.
3. Understand the historical context. Think not in terms of today's rules and culture, but rather in terms of the rules and culture in place during the time that you are studying.
4. Venture outside of your normal genre. You grow as a researcher and a writer only as you tackle subjects outside of your customary zone of comfort.
5. Search everywhere. Don't limit your research to the obvious large public repositories; local historical societies, corporate archives, even individual's correspondence may hold the key information for which you are searching.
6. Always assess both what you found and what you missed. What you found may be necessary, but not sufficient, for your topic; you may need to continue the search in other areas.
7. Always follow where the evidence leads. You may have planned to spend a week at the National Archives, but evidence found there may lead you to

other venues and other lines of investigation; always be ready to follow the more promising lead.

8. Never reach a conclusion prematurely. Wait until you have gathered all of the evidence before you rush to a conclusion.
9. Sometimes you need to publish before you are done researching. Research can be a slow process, and it is sometimes important to move the state of field knowledge forward by publishing what you have learned before you have learned everything; in such cases, clearly label your findings as provisional, pending further research.
10. Always test your writing by reading it aloud. If it doesn't sound right to you, then it isn't written rightly for anyone.
11. Always subject your work to peer review. Peer review can lead to withering criticism, but it is the only way to be sure that your research is complete and your conclusions are sound.

Holabird illustrated many of his points with anecdotes about his experience with research and writing, such as the discovery of Adam Eckfeldt's pocket journal, which illuminated many of the previously-unknown facts surrounding the striking of the Gobrecht dollars. In response to a question from the audience, he mentioned several untouched areas in American numismatics that cry out for more and better research: the history of the Brasher doubloon; statistical analyses of grading service population reports; and connections of certain coins to their specific ore origins. And, when asked to name an area of American numismatics in which past commentators have gotten it ridiculously wrong, he unhesitatingly named the field of Western gold bars, on which he has worked extensively.

Numismatic Bibliomania Society Annual Meeting and Auction

August 12, 2016 • Anaheim, California

by Joel J. Orosz

President Marc Ricard called the 37th annual meeting of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society to order on August 12, 2016, in the Huntington B/C room of the Anaheim Hilton Hotel. A total of 22 bibliomaniacs made the "long march" over from the convention center bourse to hear the decisions made at the NBS Board meeting, the announcement of the NBS annual awards, a presentation on the Newman Numismatic Portal, and to compete for prizes in the annual NBS Benefit Auction.

President Ricard reported that, upon the recommendation of Treasurer Terry White, the NBS Board had confronted a structural shortfall in club income that allowed only three of the four annual issues of *The Asylum* to be fully funded. The Board opted against reducing the number of issues of *The Asylum* from 4 to 3 per

annum; consequently, they decided that an increase in dues was necessary. The new dues will be pegged at \$40 per year (\$75 overseas), with the option of an online-only subscription for \$25. This compares favorably with the rates of sister specialty clubs (such as Medal Collectors of America, which charges \$55 per annum), and will allow for full funding of four issues of *The Asylum* per year.

The annual awards, as decided by a vote of the NBS membership, were as follows:

Jack Collins Award for Best Article by a First-Time Author in *The Asylum* was won by Raymond Williams for “Charles Bushnell’s Manuscript ‘Early Currency,’” appearing in the April-June 2015 issue.

The Joel J. Orosz Award for Best Article Appearing in *The Asylum* was won by former Editor David Yoon for “The First ‘Catalogue’ of the ANS Library,” appearing in the October-December 2015 issue.

The NBS Board decided against bestowing the George Frederick Kolbe Award for Lifetime Achievement in Numismatic Literature for 2016. For the record, the past honorees have been:

- 2010: George Frederick Kolbe; John W. Adams
- 2011: Al Hoch (posthumously)
- 2012: No Kolbe Award
- 2013: Dan Hamelberg
- 2014: No Kolbe Award
- 2015: Wayne Homren

A clear trend since 2011 has been the honoring of members with surnames starting with the letter “H,” which may augur well for Tom Harrison. The NBS is indebted to President Ricard and his father, Charles, for underwriting the creation of the annual award winners’ plaques and the Kolbe medals in perpetuity.

“Stories from the Newman Numismatic Portal,” presented by NNP representatives (and NBS stalwarts), Len Augsburg and Wayne Homren, offered a delightful series of vignettes illustrating the enormous range of research made possible by the resources of the Portal. Among the examples shared:

- A vast trove of primary documents on the subject of the Kennedy half dollar
- Coin descriptions employing the word “coruscating”
- The definition, and usage examples, of the term “Chapmanese”
- Information, both directly provided, and linked to other sites, about one of the earliest notable female numismatists, the enigmatic “Mrs. Marshall.”
- Background information, both from and about Stanley Apfelbaum’s Institute for Philatelic and Numismatic Research at Adelphi University. (This led to a series of reminiscences shared by meeting attendees regarding the numis-



NBS President Marc Ricard
Photo by David F. Fanning

matic legacies, both positive and dubious, of “Stanley “Apfelbutter”)

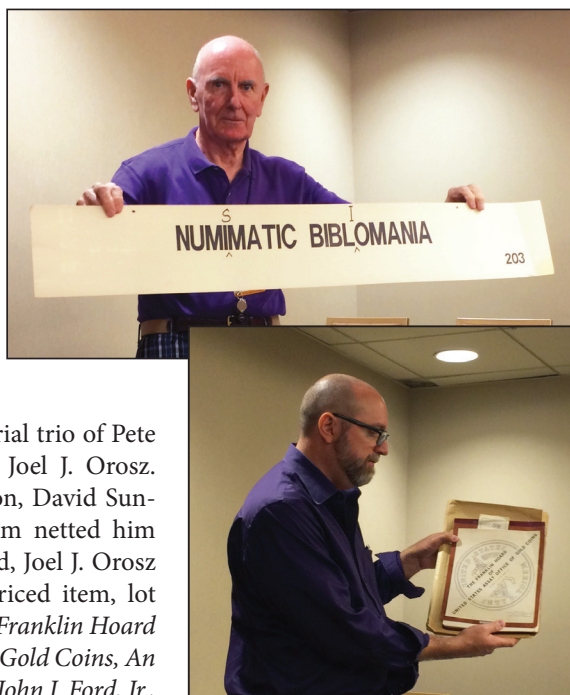
- An in-depth study of the sources for silver deposits at the Philadelphia Mint, 1838-1842 (it turns out it came mostly from Spanish and Mexican silver dollars)
- A compilation and analysis of U.S. Mint Reports, including the interesting facts that an annual Mint Report was not initially mandated by law; that some early ones are missing from the *American State Papers*; and that certain early reports seem not to exist as separate offprints.

The Augsburger and Homren show left no doubt that the NNP is already a robust search tool, and that it will only become more valuable as its active program of scanning continues to add to its reach and resources.

The annual NBS Benefit Auction was this year, for the first time, conducted as a mail bid sale, allowing members who could not be physically present to enter their bids. A total of 27 lots were donated by Len Augsburger, Dan Hamelberg, George Kolbe, Wayne Homren, Joe Foster, John W. Adams, David Fanning, Kolbe & Fanning, Fred Holabird, and the authorial trio of Pete Smith, Len Augsburger, and Joel J. Orosz. Purchasers were Tom Harrison, David Sundman (whose active right arm netted him 10 of the 27 lots), Marc Ricard, Joel J. Orosz (who captured the highest-priced item, lot 18, Ted Craig’s original 1967 *Franklin Hoard of United States Assay Office of Gold Coins, An Answer to Eric P. Newman. By John J. Ford, Jr.*, donated by John W. Adams), George Kolbe, Kolbe & Fanning, Doug Mudd, David Fanning, Wayne Homren, and Chris Bauer. All

told, the auction raised \$3,870 for NBS, enough to cover the last unfunded issue of *The Asylum* before the new dues increase eliminates the structural shortfall.

Thus ended NBS’s successful sojourn in the city of the angels. Members already anticipate 2017’s conclave in the mile-high city of Denver.



John Donohue and David Fanning show off auction lots to raise money for the NBS.
Photos by George F. Kolbe

Printed or Electronic Books: Each Holds Advantages for Research

by David Hill

American Numismatic Society Librarian

We are so immersed in electronic communication, it seems almost quaint to ponder the “future” of digital publishing. Surely that future is now, right? Publishers continue to churn out real-world books and newspapers and magazines, but isn’t it just a matter of time before we get serious, kick paper to the curb, and surrender to the pixels? Frankly, it probably is just a matter of time, but we’re certainly not there yet. And while I wouldn’t be foolish enough to predict when that time might come, I will say that it doesn’t seem particularly imminent. Despite the many advantages of electronic publishing, paper endures. Not only do economic and practical realities continue to favor hard copy publication, but, for some uses, it’s fair to say that traditional print materials often trump their digital counterparts.

This is a topic I’ve already been thinking about for over twenty-five years, going back to my first experiences with electronic texts, as a graduate student studying history and library science. In those days it wasn’t books you first encountered in electronic form; it was articles in scholarly journals, newspapers, and magazines—or maybe legal codes and cases. In those days, to get at the materials, you actually had to sit down with a professional librarian, since only they could be counted on to construct queries with the greatest efficiency, a necessity since the library was charged for time spent on the system. As students began doing this searching for themselves, using databases from vendors like EBSCO, Proquest, and LexisNexis, and later Google, it was these articles that students would first begin to think of as electronic only, short texts that could be brought to their screens immediately, or emailed to them within a day using interlibrary loan. These students were mostly oblivious to the old-fashioned print version, where the article is one of many bound



Digital resources like the Online Coins of the Roman Empire (OCRE) offer some advantages over the traditional catalog of coins in bound volumes, but practical and economic factors still put this kind of publishing out of reach of most authors.

into the book-like volume of a journal.

In my later experience as a reference librarian, I found that students came to rely perhaps too much on the convenient and easily digested electronic articles, causing problems when these were inappropriate for their needs. A student might be looking for some in-depth background on the Civil War, for example, and I'd suggest we head to the shelves and get a couple of books on the topic. Though they'd sometimes shoot me the same look I got when suggesting we take a trip to the microfilm closet, they ultimately had to agree that a book was the right call, not only because it offered the desired comprehensive and in-depth coverage, but also because of the format itself. A book is easy to use. Its contents can be immediately comprehended as you flip through the pages, dipping into it here and there to extract information, giving it an edge even over the electronic books that are increasingly being added to college research databases.

There is evidence that young students agree. A study published in 2015 found that undergraduates showed a clear preference for printed works in certain circumstances, particularly when it came to class readings and textbooks. The researchers concluded that "contrary to popular stereotype, surveys for more than a decade show that undergraduates consistently prefer reading their academic texts in print." Students said that advantages of print included fewer distractions, ease of note taking, and greater comprehension.¹ Another survey from 2015, this one on e-book use in the humanities, also found that university students and scholars expressed a preference for print, though it must be said that a majority of those surveyed elected to use an e-book when one was offered rather than order a print copy.²

I have to agree that there are advantages to paper that electronic publications still can't match. In fact, for me, it doesn't matter if a publication starts out as an electronic text, it will end up as a printed one during the course of my work. No number of screens, tablets, or other devices will do it for me as I am only able to work surrounded by heaps of books and scribbled-on pages. My experience working with college students, with the networked printer constantly humming in the background, suggests that this is not a process unique to me or my generation.

Of course, for certain works, digital can be as good or superior to print. Paper and electronic formats seem equally suited for the kind of thing you pick up and more or less read from beginning to end, like a novel. But there are many publications that are not meant to be read in a linear fashion, but instead present the reader with discrete and categorized bits of information, such as a catalog of coins. Here electronic formats would seem to have an edge, as they allow for the searching and manipulation of data. But are these then really "publications" or are they "databases"? Can we even make such a distinction? The multi-volume *Roman Provincial Coinage* started out in 1992 as a print publication with a goal of presenting a standard typology of provincial coinage. Having now formally merged with Roman Provincial Coinage Online, which was started in 2005, it is now a hybrid, its two parts reflecting the relative strengths of each. The online version allows for searching, mapping, and the linking of various collections, while the printed volumes are the only place to find the full-text narrative introductions.³

Online Coins of the Roman Empire (OCRE), which seeks to publish every type of

Roman imperial coinage, is an resource that in the past would have been published in the familiar format of a thick, oversized multivolume catalog of text and plates. It is, in fact, incorporating one such venerable old set, *Roman Imperial Coinage*, the first volume of which was published in 1923. The benefits of an electronic version are obvious, starting with the ease and immediacy of updates. But for the time being, economic and practical factors still favor the publication of print catalogs, as most authors lack the resources to produce and maintain this kind of online “publication.” OCRE, for example, is the product of two well-established research organizations, the American Numismatic Society and the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World at New York University, and is backed by a \$300,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Print seems nowhere near ready to raise the white flag and go the way of floppy disks or videotape. Nor does it linger only as a fashionable boutique item, as is the case with vinyl records. Its enduring vitality can be seen in libraries and bookstores. At the ANS library, new additions are obtained almost entirely in print. Hard copy journals and magazines—received by subscription, exchange, or purchase—are indexed in our online catalog and are easily retrieved from the shelves, a traditional system that continues to work in the digital age. The commercial market for print books still shows signs of life. Though large chains like Barnes & Noble have long been struggling, last year, for the first time in seven years, bookstore sales actually increased over the previous year. The industry suffered a blow in 2011 with the loss of the bookstore chain Borders, but it appears that numerous independent stores have sprouted in its place, as reflected in the steady rise in membership of the American Booksellers Association.⁴ This year it was reported that Amazon planned to launch a chain of hundreds of brick-and-mortar bookstores.⁵ And though e-books have been claiming a larger share of book sales for a number of years, going from 9% of unit sales in 2010 to 28% in 2013, the percentage actually slipped to 24% in 2015.⁶

Nevertheless, though it might require technologies not yet invented or beyond my imagining, I have no doubt that one day the printed word will cease to be published on paper. Something vital will be lost when that day comes. There are those who delight in sensual thrills of printed volumes—the cool marble smoothness of modern paper, the musky odors of a new leather binding, the dustier pleasures of a creaky hardback plucked from the shelf—but for me the joy is in a book’s history: its ghostly previous owners, its place in the past.


I recall one time, for an article I was writing, I found myself deep into the mysteries of the 1804 dollar, learning that the coin had made its first published appearance in the book *Manual of Gold and Silver Coins of All Nations* (1842) by Jacob Eckfeldt and William DuBois of the U.S. Mint. Off I went to the ANS library’s rare book room, excited as always to have a touchstone of the past so close at hand. Locating the volume, I cracked it open, only to discover that it had in fact been DuBois’s own copy! Now, how could an electronic book compete with that?



NOTES:

- 1 Diane Mizrahi, “Undergraduates’ Academic Reading Format Preferences and Behaviors,”

- Journal of Academic Librarianship* 41 (2015).
- 2 Tina Chrzastowski and Lynn Wiley, "E-book Use and Value in the Humanities," *Library Resources & Technical Services* 59, no. 4 (October 2015).
 - 3 Chris Howgego, preface to *Roman Provincial Coinage*, vol. III (London: British Museum Press, 2015).
 - 4 Jim Milliot, "Bookstore Sales Rise: A Reversal of Fortune," *Publishers Weekly* (February 29, 2016).
 - 5 Nick Wingfield, "Amazon is Said to be Planning an Expansion Into Retail Bookstores," *New York Times* (February 2, 2016).
 - 6 Lev Grossman, "The Death of the Bookstore was Greatly Exaggerated," *Time* (July 11-18, 2016).



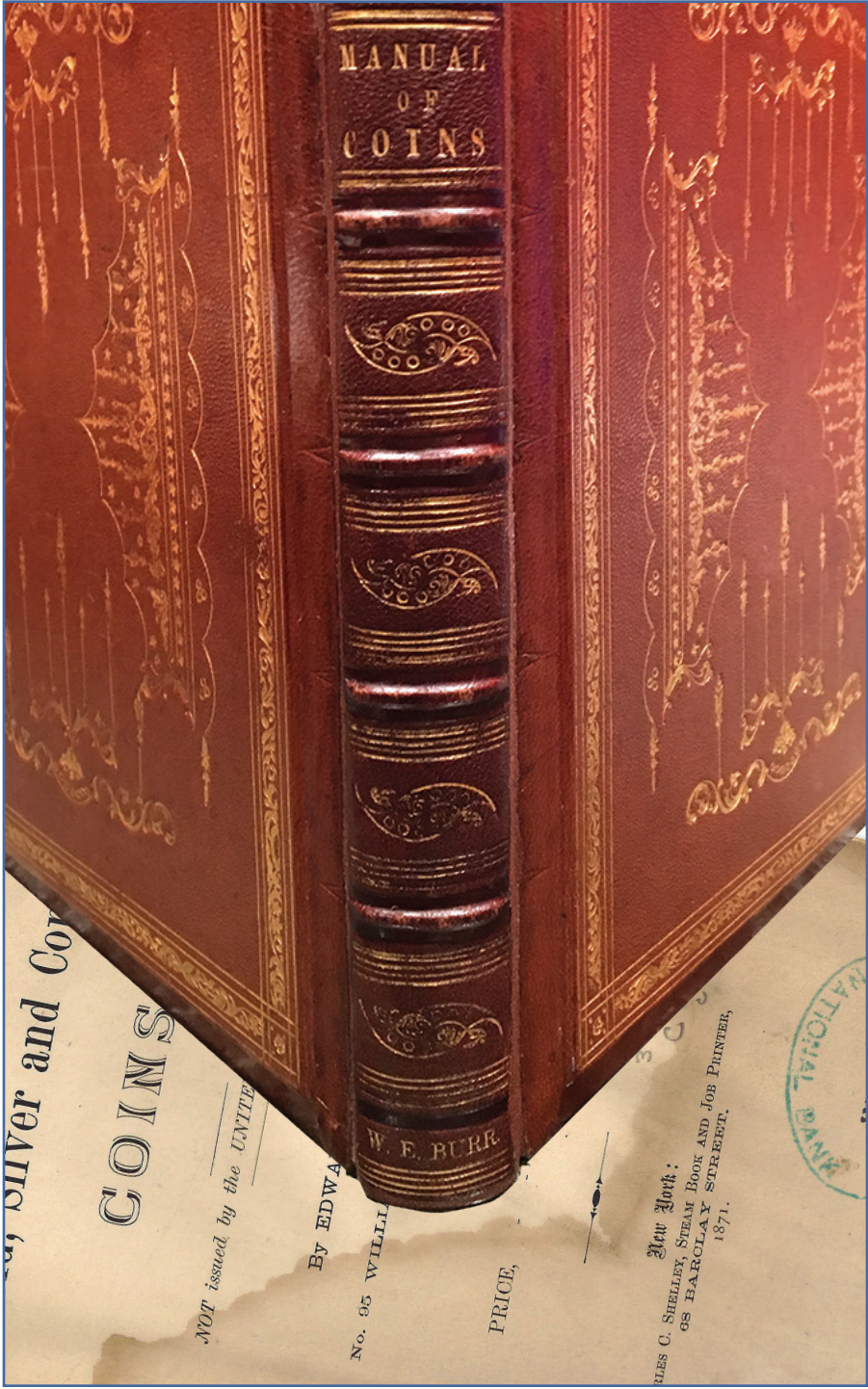
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Best Article in *The Asylum*

The Asylum
Numismatic Literary Guild's
Best Issue of 2015, Small Publication



Lawrenceville or Louisville?

by Joel J. Orosz

Collector, Author and Researcher

Is the future of numismatic collecting to be found in Lawrenceville, or in Louisville, or in—God forbid—Nowheresville? The first two of these approaches to the systematic gathering of books, catalogs, and journals devoted to coins, paper money, tokens, and medals have co-existed since the early days of the 19th century, but it is doubtful that the peaceable kingdom will abide for much of the 21st. Will Lawrenceville or Louisville still be with us in 2036, or will the bibliophilic trail come to a melancholy end in Nowheresville?

Let us define the approaches. The Lawrenceville style is personified by a son of that fair New Jersey prep school town, P. Scott Rubin. Scott voraciously collects numismatic catalogs, with a specialty in the rarefied world of provenance research. He cares greatly, therefore, about their contents, especially those of the genus “priced and named.” His concern does not extend to fine bindings or to association copies (unless inscriptions are useful to reconstructing coin provenances). Scott’s shelves array battle-tested battalions of paper-covered catalogs, sometimes waterstained, often (19th century paper being what it is) chipped and ragged. Aesthetic triumphs these catalogs ain’t, but they constitute complete runs essential for the history they contain. In fact, workaday photocopies would serve Lawrenceville purposes just as well as—sometimes better than—an original. Scott is, in sum, a collector not so much of books, as of information.

The Louisville style is personified by the late Armand Champa, a denizen of that storied city hard by the Ohio River. Armand voraciously collected literature with a specialty in the high-toned realm of fine bindings. He cared greatly, therefore, about the appearance of his books, especially those of the genus “special editions.” Armand’s concern did not extend to the contents of his literature (he could be a gentleman, but he was never accused of being a scholar). Armand’s shelves arrayed books turned out for dress parade in dazzling leatherbound uniforms. Aesthetic triumphs these volumes were, and they constituted complete runs essential for enhancement of the vista. No photocopies would be tolerated in Louisville. Armand was, in sum, a collector not so much of books as of *objets d’art*.

The conventional wisdom of our days foretells that it matters not whether the numismatic bibliomaniac of the future inclines toward the Lawrenceville or the Louisville approaches, for modern technology and generational *zeitgeist* are steering the hobby of book collecting straight toward the dismal environs of Nowheresville. Members of both Generation X and Millennials, it is well known, stare endlessly into their electronic devices, obsessing over online gaming, social media, and perpetual rounds of texting. These rising generations have developed a reputation for eschewing the gathering of “stuff,” instead living modestly in their snug and sparsely-appointed abodes. Even if these generations had any interest in books, they would have no room

for shelving. Book collecting, therefore, will soon be as “bloomin’ deceased” as Monty Python’s celebrated parrot.

And yet, evidence suggests that books have been revived even before having been officially declared dead. In 2015, the American Booksellers Association announced that its membership increased for the *seventh* consecutive year, to the patriotic total of 1,775 “indie” bookshops. In 2013, e-books comprised 28% of all books sold, and seemed poised to surpass the sale of books on paper; by 2015, that share had fallen to 24%. Actual books are selling so well that Amazon—yes, *that* Amazon—opened a bricks-and mortar bookstore in Seattle in 2015, and plans another this year in San Diego. Our love affair with printed paper books has been ongoing since 1453, and our urge to collect them has become a reliable feature of the human condition. Reasons for collecting have always been evolving, from defending the faith, to royal prerogative, to aristocratic entitlement, to proof of gentlemanly status, to cultural nationalism, to information hounding, to aesthetic statement, but new reasons keep arising to supplant—or at least to complement—the old. The habits and traditions of bibliomania have sunk deep roots into the human psyche over the past 563 years, and these roots are not likely to wither in a mere few decades. Gen Xers and Millennials are likely to renew humanity’s love affair with books yet, albeit in different ways than their ancestors. Reasons for collecting will continue to evolve.

So, Nowheresville—Gutenberg’s shade be praised!—is not the probable destination for numismatic literature collectors. Survival will not mean stasis, nor will the changes afoot be kind to every collector. Specifically, the near future of the hobby will mark the end of the long peaceful co-existence of Lawrenceville and Louisville. One will likely survive, possibly even thrive, while the other will rapidly disappear.

The Lawrenceville approach is today looking very much like a Cretaceous dinosaur, while technology appears to be an onrushing meteor. Google Books and HathiTrust have already posted online many of the information-laden tomes so prized by Lawrenceville style collectors. The Newman Numismatic Portal (NNP), in collaboration with the Internet Archive, will provide the equivalent of the meteorite’s explosion near the Yucatan Peninsula. Scott Rubin was forced, when starting his quest for information in the 1970s, to buy crateloads of catalogs, some at considerable prices. All produced between 1860 and 1920 are printed on acidic paper, and literally crumble with use. Deacidification and restoration make them more usable, but at a very high price. Compare this with being able to access the same information on the NNP, at no cost, and with no need to physically handle fragile items. What information-seeker would choose to buy actual crumbling catalogs when the information they crave is freely and robustly available online? The NNP delivers information better, faster, and cheaper than any original book or catalog.

The Louisville approach today looks to have a much brighter future. Not even the NNP can deliver *objets d’art* to one’s bookshelf. The artistry of a superb binding in calf or morocco, richly gilt and decoratively ornamented, cannot cross the Portal. Admiring your shelves packed with such works will ever be more satisfying than observing something like on a glowing screen. An immortal collector’s bookplate becomes a physical possession in a book, but can only be a disembodied image on the Portal. Similarly, signed books make you an autograph collector, as opposed to

pixilated signatures you must share with all Portal users. Inscriptions and annotations of knowledgeable past owners add value to these particular volumes not available in the generic books scanned onto the Portal. Such association copies become historical objects in themselves, and connect you psychically to a chain of numismatic notables who once possessed that very book. Isn't it worth something to be the latest custodian of a volume that once stood on the shelves of a Bushnell, or a Brand, or an Eliasberg or a Newman: or all of the above?

It seems, therefore, that in the near future, the Lawrenceville style of collecting will disappear. If information is the compelling goal, there will be no need to own a single numismatic book, catalog, or journal. The Portal will provide all, instantly, freely and conveniently. The generic paper publication will drop to zero value, too expensive to produce and too unpopular to resell.

The Louisville style, however, will endure. If collecting beautiful and meaningful objects is the goal, the Portal cannot provide. Leatherbound copies; special limited editions; association copies; autographed and the inscribed examples; volumes with coins, medals or gold samples bound in; books boasting a provenance stretching back to the great collectors and dealers of the hobby; even modern specially-made limited editions: all of these will remain in demand.

But doesn't this mean that the hobby will be reduced to a mere vanity project? Books with trivial content can be wrapped in gorgeous leather bindings; as the old Spanish proverb goes, "you may dress a monkey in silk, but it remains a monkey." Anyone with enough cash can buy special limited editions, or books with coins or medals embedded. Won't these collectors all be like Armand Champa, possessing shelving crammed with gorgeous volumes that he never read?

It need not be an either/or. The Portal, while rendering the Lawrenceville style of collecting obsolete, also opens vast avenues of information to all literature lovers. Louisville style collectors will have that access, and supplement it with the information found principally in their special editions (such as the post-sale printed copies with prices realized), or found only in their special editions (such as information from inscriptions, annotations, and special features). There is no reason why Louisville-style collectors cannot enjoy their beautiful objects and simultaneously conduct research with them.

It will be sad to lose the Lawrenceville style, sadder still to see vast numbers of garden-variety books and catalogs doomed to be unwept, unhonored and unsung. But take heart, for the Louisville style is here to stay. There won't be as many collectors, or collectible books, but as Spencer Tracy was wont to say, what will be saved will be "cherce." There will be nothing left of Lawrencvilliens excepting fond memories, but the Louisvillians will have enough clout to truly be "sluggers." And, always, we should be thankful that Louisville, not Nowheresville, is our future destination.





Future Boy Modernizes Numismatics

by **Wayne Homren**

E-Sylum Founder and NBS Website Developer

Call me *Future Boy*. I've always been drawn to new tools and technologies, curious for a look into the future. My leisure reading is usually a mix of books on the history of science, technology and business, which provides perspective on how people have handled great transitions in the past, such as the advent of canals, the telegraph, the railroad, electric lights and power, radio, the automobile, airplanes, and even frozen food.

As a software professional I worked in artificial intelligence back in the 1980s. I was into the internet before there were browsers, declaring to others "This will change the world" (I have a witness). I was a product manager for the pioneering search engine Lycos before the word Google became a verb. I built cyber tools for inspecting IPv6 packets long before IPv4 addresses were exhausted, and today I am a Data Scientist for the U.S. Department of Defense, where the past, present and future often coexist.

Early Days

In the early days of the internet (1970s and 80s), there were no browsers or fancy graphics—just plain text. Coin collectors with internet access could communicate with others via early forms of email and bulletin boards. Rec.collecting.coins was one of the earliest such forums. Those of us with computer access at work found time to participate with like-minded souls around the world. But it was a small club, and as hard as it is to believe today, in those days commercial use of the internet was taboo. Funded by government and universities, buying and selling was forbidden.

When I worked at Bell Labs in New Jersey during the early 1980s, I learned about a new system where commercial activity was encouraged. It was a plain scrolling text interface that you could dial into via the GTE Telnet network (remember modems?). The company was started by Dr. Larry Brilliant, who was based in Ann Arbor, MI at the time. He had hooked up with a couple hackers who ran a bulletin board system on a server in one of their homes. They created an interactive conferencing system with many elements of today's chat rooms and newsgroups. I ended up moonlighting as a consultant for the company, where I did testing and commented on user interface design.

The company was initially called MarketNet, Inc., and later Network Technologies Inc., or NETI. Larry was a coin collector and knew dealer Joseph Lepczyk, whom I believe became an investor in the firm. Hoping to unseat the standard coin dealer teletype system, they created a system called CENTS for buying, selling, and discussing numismatic items online. CENTS stood for "Complete Electronic Numismatic Trading Systems."

In my library I have copies of the user documentation for the system and a handful of scrolled paper printouts documenting some interactive sessions. In one, Larry Brilliant wrote: "It was a real treat to be able to sign on to the system via satellite from Kathmandu, Nepal. We are making world history with the longest distance coin deal ever wonderful." (August 15th, 1983).

The company later had some sales to groups like AT&T's Legal Dept., which used it as groupware to discuss legal documents. But the system was way ahead of its time and failed, because in those days long before the popularization of the internet, there were still only a handful of first adopters with PCs and modems having the capability to dial in. We geeks thought it was wonderful, but it went nowhere.

Larry closed the company, but moved to San Francisco and ended up cofounding The Well with Stuart Brand (of Whole Earth Catalog fame), this time creating the first commercially successful online community.

The World Catches Up

While I was sad to lose the CENTS forum, I eventually began thinking about other options. First, I wanted to connect with my newfound friends at the Numismatic Bibliomania Society, who were scattered all over the U.S. I decided that email would be the easiest and cheapest way to reach the largest audience.

My kids once told me, "there've always been cell phones". Well, in their experience that's true. I was like them back in the 80's and early 90s. Having used email from college through every job I had since, it was the only environment I knew. I couldn't imagine life without it, and assumed everyone else had access, too.

Wrong. It's lonely being an early adopter. I remember the first time I asked at an NBS General Meeting who had an email address. Only Michael Hodder raised his hand. He and I exchanged addresses and became electronic pen pals. But everyone else looked at us like we were performing some secret handshake for a mysterious club. I guess we were.

But I learned from this and the CENTS experience. You can be TOO early. While in my dreams the CENTS platform would have taken over the world of numismatics like eBay and today's auction houses eventually did, that was never in the cards. The world has to be ready or even the Best Product Ever will fail hard.

So I bided my time, but used the interim to think about how my eventual email forum would work. I thought about what I DIDN'T like about current email lists and chat rooms and how my version could be better. For one, it had to have an editor. Without a cop to police the content, it's the Wild, Wild, West. People get rude, and the ensuing flame wars get ridiculous. Any forum run on autopilot is a crap magnet.

Another thing I hated about email lists and chat rooms was the uneven distribution of content. One day a torrent of 50 messages could arrive. Then for days on end, nothing. Someone would eventually chime in, "Hello, anyone home?" And I'd hit delete, again. That just looks pathetic. So I decided that as editor, I would gather contributions and publish them together on a regular schedule. I was very proud of my new plan until I realized I'd just re-invented the magazine. Anyway, it would also be free for everyone, and membership in NBS wouldn't be required. It would be too much work to police that anyway, and I wanted to use it as a platform to recruit new

members.

Along the way the World Wide Web was added to the internet and browsers provided an easy way to find and view content. I kept asking for a show of hands at the annual NBS General Meeting and slowly a few more hands went up. But not enough to pull the trigger. Then a company called America Online (or AOL) carpet-bombed the U.S. with floppy disks for free trials. And at the next meeting nearly every hand went up. At last, it was time. I passed around a sheet and gathered 30+ email addresses.

On the morning of Friday, September 4, 1998 (the same day Google was incorporated, it turned out), the Numismatic Bibliomania Society's internet email list was inaugurated. It didn't have a name, but would eventually be christened the *E-Sylum*, as an electronic companion to our print journal, *The Asylum*. By September 18th there are already 95 subscribers.

The *E-Sylum* began in plain-text format. While I could have added images and other features, I decided to stick with the lowest common denominator. This was still the modem era, and by keeping the email small it loaded fast for everyone. I had to wait ten years before the world was fully ready for our next step.

On Sunday, May 18, 2008, the new HTML version of the *E-Sylum* debuted. It was like going from black-and-white Kansas to the colorful dreamland in *The Wizard of Oz*. We've never looked back. The ability to include images was a game-changer. Now we could actually see the numismatic items we discussed.

One of my goals in starting the *E-Sylum* was to show the hobby what could be done with this new medium. One of the first publications to follow our lead was the MPC Gram, an email newsletter for collectors of Military Payment Certificates and other military numismatica. Today we have The *E-Gobrecht* and many other email and web publications around the world. The *E-Sylum* was one of the first—a blog long before the word was invented.

The NBS Website

Today we have more than 2,000 email subscribers and many more who read the *E-Sylum* on our web site, which I'd built for the club by hand to teach myself HTML coding. I registered the coinbooks.com and coinbooks.org domains. At the time, NBS.org was already taken by the National Brotherhood of Skiers club.

Actually, I don't mind revealing now that the web site was my ulterior motive. I wasn't just editing a newsletter; I was building a web archive one article at a time. Today there are over 21,000 *E-Sylum* articles archived on the NBS web site, a great trove of information about numismatic literature and numismatics in general.

I owe many thanks to John Nebel and Bruce Perdue for their help with the site. John hosts it for the club for free on his servers, and he also wrote software that splits each issue into its individual articles and generates the table of contents. Bruce is our volunteer webmaster, and does yeoman work uploading each new issue, fixing my typos, and recoding the site with each new upgrade.

Mother of All Numismatic Search Engines

While I continued editing the *E-Sylum*, my personal website CoinLibrary.com gathered dust for years on end. It was embarrassing, but I renewed the domain name over

and over, figuring that someday I'd do something with it. A feature of the NBS web site inspired me to take the next step into our collective numismatic future.

One of John Nebel's programs creates our RSS feed and an email message that lists the headline, volume, number, article number, and URL for every new *E-Sylum* article. That email message was the genesis of a new CoinLibrary.com, but not directly. You see, that email message went nowhere but my inbox (and trash folder). There was nowhere else to send it.

The idea of that message was to feed the latest *E-Sylum* articles into NIP, the Numismatic Indexes Project started by Harry Bass. Harry had hired a developer and built a database containing indexes to major U.S. numismatic periodicals, including *The Numismatist*, the *American Journal of Numismatics*, and many others. The database could be searched online at the Harry Bass Foundation website. It was a MARVELOUS resource. I worked with Harry and his developer to include both our print journal (*The Asylum*) and our electronic newsletter (*E-Sylum*).

The problem with any periodical index is that it gets out of date very quickly. Some volunteer spends months compiling one, publishes it, then quits. New content continues to be published, but the index languishes until another volunteer brings it up to date years later.

The email was to be the solution to that problem, at least for the *E-Sylum*. It would go to the NIP database administrator, who could easily pull it into the database, keeping the index fully up to date with the latest articles. My master plan was to work with the editors of all the major U.S. numismatic periodicals to send a similar email for each of their issues. Voila! NIP would never get out of date.

Just one problem. Harry died. The foundation continued to host the NIP index, but there was no one to update it. Eventually they gave it to the American Numismatic Association, and they hosted it for several years on their site. But still, no updates were ever made that I'm aware of. The index was quite useful, but hadn't been updated in years.

Basically, I wanted to pick up where Harry left off and build a new numismatic literature index, only now I could do it with 21st century tools. In the age of Google and Open Source software, far more was possible. I wanted to build the "Mother of All Numismatic Search Engines"; one that could stay completely current, enable full text content search, and have redundant backups so no information would ever get lost.

Some sites like CoinArchives already exist, but they focus on ancient coins and most do not have books or periodicals, just auction records. I wanted to start with U.S. material, especially specialty club periodicals, which have a wealth of great information rarely seen by people outside those clubs.

It was a concept the world was finally ready for. In my day job I was already building software that scaled to search billions of records in a fraction of a second.

The Coin Library

I found a developer to help and he built a marvelous demo site using the same modern technology. It included working full-text search on all *E-Sylum* articles (17,000+

at the time), the NIP index, and all the auction lots on the Heritage and Goldbergs web sites. I went to a Baltimore coin show and gave a PowerPoint overview with screen shots to several NBS friends, including David Sundman, Dave Perkins and Len Augsberger. Later I gave them logins on the demo site so they could play around. Bill Eckberg said the site would have saved him MONTHS of work writing his *Grading Guide for Early American Copper Coins*.

That first developer was a friend who did the work for free, but I had begun raising funds to pay for the other services I would need, like a user interface designer, a tester, not to mention an accountant to help with taxes. I had set up a company and the idea was to sell advertising on the site to pay the bills.

When Harvey Stack wrote to me praising the *E-Sylum* and asking how he could help, I told him about my new web site project. He immediately sent a check. Others soon joined in, including John Adams, Dan Hamelberg, John Kraljevich, David Sundman, Dave Bowers, Tony Terranova, Ken Bressett, Bill Burd and Greg Roberts. I treated these contributions as prepayment for ads once the site went live.

These funds came in handy when my first developer took a new job and didn't have time to continue. I found someone new and could begin paying him and a web designer. Together we began putting a cleaner interface on the site and adding new features, including indexing complete books and indexing Heritage auctions from the files they'd begun sending me. Roger Burdette allowed me to test with a digital copy of his *From Mine to Mint* book, and Dennis Tucker at Whitman Publications provided digital copies of two Whitman publications. The system worked - we could do a fast full-text search across books, periodicals and auction sites.

One evening I got a call from Eric Newman's son Andy, asking the same question Harvey did. "First, let me tell you about this other project...", I said. And to make a long story short, that's how my Coin Library project became a forerunner of the Newman Numismatic Portal.

I shut down my demo site and joined the Newman project as a part-time consultant along with John Feigenbaum, Len Augsburger and Roger Burdette. Len ended up taking a full-time Project Coordinator position with NNP.

On December 14, 2015 Washington University in St. Louis published a press release announcing the Newman Numismatic Portal. The site already hosts over 360,000 pages of fully searchable digitized numismatic content, with more coming online each week.

The future is here, and not far off from what I longed for over the last 30 years. And we're just getting warmed up. I haven't run out of ideas yet, and speak regularly with Len about content and features we can add to the portal site. See his article for more detail and future plans. It's already a brave new world, and the future is still bright for numismatics.





Flashback

Great Numismatic Libraries of Pittsburgh Tour 2004

NBS Members visit the homes of Tom Fort and Wayne Homren while in Pittsburgh.



George Kolbe, Frank Campell, Joel Orosz, William Rau and Wayne Homren peruse Wayne's library.

Photos provided by Joel J. Orosz, NBS Historian. Share your own photo and story from NBS history by sending it to nbsasylum@gmail.com.

Thoughts on Writing a Print Media Book in a Digital World

by Neil Musante

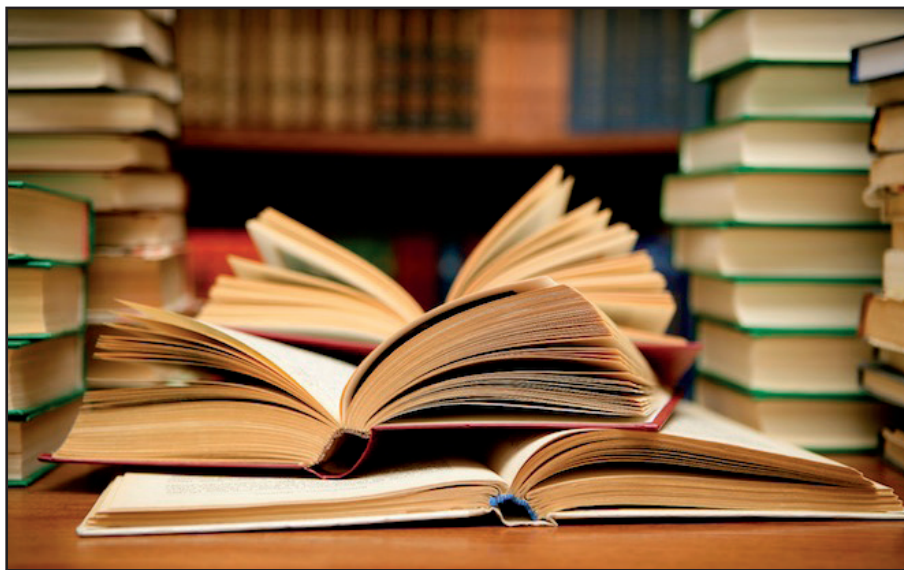
Collector, Researcher and Author

Sometime this month, Spink will publish my new book on Washington medals titled *Medallic Washington*. It will be two volumes of roughly 450 pages each. Essentially, it is a complete revision of the 1885 classic work by William Spohn Baker, *Medallic Portraits of Washington*. My concept was to provide a photograph and written description for each medal while rearranging the material into a roughly chronological sequence of issue. I say roughly because the linkages are kept intact. Thus, the U.S. Mint reissues of the Washington Before Boston medal are grouped with the Paris mint issues, even though they were struck much later.

As you can probably imagine, it was an enormous undertaking. Fortunately, I was given the opportunity to photograph the Appleton collection at the Massachusetts Historical Society, the Baker collection at the Pennsylvania Historical Society and the Mint Cabinet assembled by James Ross Snowden at the Smithsonian Institute. I also had the great good fortune to photograph several of the most amazing private collections ever assembled.

The years covered in these two volumes are 1777 to 1890. In all, there are close to 1200 medals described and illustrated, nearly double the number included in Baker.

One of the thoughts that continually occurred to me while assembling this work



was how much digital photography helped to make it all possible. Back in 2000, when I was completing the *Medallic Work of John Adams Bolen*, digital cameras were in their infancy while scanning and digitization were just starting to become commercially affordable. All of my photographs for that book were shot on color slide film, commercially processed and then scanned onto floppy discs at great cost. Today, film is virtually obsolete. Cameras are all digital and processing simply means downloading your photographs to your computer directly from the camera's memory card. Photoshop has been around for while of course, but the cost savings on the mechanical and chemical processes is enormous. How the camera and film industries dealt with this advancement in technology would be a fascinating study.

Taking this a step farther, think about how difficult and time consuming it must have been for Baker and even Rulau/Fuld to assemble their catalogs without access to the Internet. The amount of correspondence and the time that it must have taken, especially in 1885 is mind-boggling. My respect and appreciation for their efforts is boundless.

Today the researcher is blessed to have some amazing resources at his or her fingertips, and I doubt I would have been able to complete this work without them. For example, the Boston Public Library has an enormous collection of 18th and 19th century newspapers available online. Also, through BPL membership I was able to access JSTOR, which has a vast digital holding of scholarly papers and pamphlets on many, many subjects. The Massachusetts Historical Society through their Abigail portal has large portions of their collections digitized and available. Others that I found invaluable included Archive.org where I was able to access numerous city directories, historical documents, rare books and even numismatic auction catalogs; Founders.archive.gov, provided access to congressional records and the valuable correspondence of the founders; and the amazing websites of Stacks Bowers and Heritage offered access to their archives. Now the ANA has digitized *The Numismatist* and the Newman Portal has begun to make numerous journals and numismatic auction catalogs easily accessible. For the researcher and writer, there is no question that these websites are a great boon.

As an author and book collector however, I do have some concerns about the availability of digital media. First, as an author, my hope is that the book will be an object that provides great satisfaction as a tangible expression of my time and labor and will be something that I am proud to hold in my hands. I also hope it will be well received and that it will sell well enough to allow me to recoup some of my costs in producing it. Certainly, while it is under copyright there is very little risk that it will be scanned and made digitally available on one of these websites. And while I am not opposed to an electronic version of the book, it is really up to the publisher to find a way to make it digitally available for purchase. Unfortunately, given the relatively small market for numismatic publications, creating the infrastructure for web-based publishing is probably cost prohibitive.

As a book collector I also have some concerns. I began collecting books over thirty years ago, and to date have amassed over 12,000 volumes, most of which have some value, at least to me. The vast majority of my books are first editions in very good to very fine condition, very fine being a rough equivalent to MS65. The collection cov-

ers a wide range of genres in both literary fiction and non-fiction categories, including of course, numismatics. Many of my books are signed or inscribed by the author. As collectables, they are, on the whole, declining in value although great items will always be great items. This decline in value, while disappointing, is not necessarily related to the rate at which books are being digitized. After all, cheap editions of great books have always been available, and free libraries have been around forever. More realistically, I think the general decline is tied to the Internet where books for purchase can be found more easily than even a decade ago. I also think we face a declining educational system, a generation that grew up on digital media, and a general decline in disposable income.

Numismatic books are no exception, in that they too are being affected by market conditions and perhaps to an even greater degree. While inexpensive reprints of classic works like *Early Coins of America* and *Medallic Portraits of Washington* have long been available, they were still printed in such limited numbers that they at least had some value. Now with the Newman Portal and other sites making so much of this material available, I would imagine that first printings will decline in value while reprints will become virtually impossible to sell. This is of course a boon to the researcher, but it is a major hit to the collector. I wonder if it is only a temporary boon however? At some point, when the folks who have endowed these portals have passed on, and their administrators have retired, will the institutions hosting them realize the value of their archives and begin to charge for access? Still, while they are available to me, I will make use of them.

One thing that offers some consolation to the collector is that personalized and or inscribed books will always have a special value. After all, how do you get an author to sign a digital book? To know that your book was once held by Crosby or Baker or Woodward or Cogan as they inscribed it to Isaac Wood or Henry Holland truly makes it special and I don't see how these can be replaced by digital media.

Books will still be around for a long time to come. In fact, retail book sales continue to trend upwards. As objects, they make us feel comfortable. It is pleasurable to sit in a room filled with books. But eventually, everything that can be digitized will be digitized, and I suspect that books, as objects will fade into obscurity, becoming nothing more than museum artifacts.



Reach the most devoted
numismatic bibliophiles.

Advertise in *The Asylum*.

Visit coinbooks.org for details.

A Dying Profession?

by Charles Davis

Numismatic Bookseller and Author

In 1981 George Kolbe offered for sale the numismatic library of the Essex Institute and a selection of duplicates consigned by Armand Champa. It was a landmark sale with the catalogue produced in a handsome large format Chapman style worthy of the record prices realized, many of which would stand for decades. With that sale, George had effectively established that there could be a profession entirely devoted to the cataloguing and sale of numismatic literature and its related ephemera. He opened the door to a rewarding opportunity and this writer, Dave Fanning, John Bergman, Cal Wilson, Ken Lowe, John Burns, David Sklow, Jim Grady, Fred Lake and others walked through it. The Newman Numismatic Portal has effectively closed that door.

Previously, numismatic literature was the domain of Frank Katen who augmented that income with the sale of coins as well. Unfortunately his catalogues provided no insight into the significance of the material he handled. As William Sheldon said about S. H. Chapman regarding large cents, literature was to Katen simply merchandise and profit. Other dealers occasionally offered books and catalogues, but they were relegated to the back pages of colorless Schulman or Kosoff catalogues with single line descriptions of little value. But George set a standard, one that several of us have tried to emulate. The result was a growing appreciation of the significance of the content of past auction catalogues, periodicals, and text references. Those who had amassed large libraries became bibliophiles. They probably were before but just didn't know it.

Besides pure book collectors, the marketplace for numismatic literature more and more included researchers who were grateful for in-depth lot descriptions which guided them through the wheat and the chaff. This writer's *American Numismatic Literature* focused on content and usefulness as much as on rarity. For instance, we discussed the quality of the different types of photographic plates, praising the contact prints published by the Chapmans while issuing a warning about useless black halftones in a Kosoff catalogue. John Adams' two volume United States Numismatic Literature graded several thousand auction catalogues in no fewer than 26 categories. These titles were very much written with the researcher in mind.

By the end of the 1990s, numismatic literature catalogues written by a dozen individuals made appearances in our mail box almost monthly. The pace began to slow as some dealers found it difficult to attract worthwhile consignments, ones that left some profit after rising printing and postage charges were deducted. A sale hammering \$50,000 might cost as much to conduct as a small coin sale that would bring in \$500,000. A profitable literature sale would need strength in all areas—sale catalogues, periodicals, and books. The client list had to contain both those who collected literature for its pure enjoyment and those who bought literature for inherent research value. It needed to include those who required the book as well as those who wanted it.

Today with virtually everything that is not in copyright finding its way to the

Newman Portal or other Internet sites, literature at auction is bound to be placed before a more reduced audience. Why would a researcher pay for a set or even odd volumes of *The Numismatist* or the *British Numismatic Journal* when its content is just a few clicks away. What is the worth of a plated Stickney catalogue when it and its significant plates are stored in the cloud. With the researcher exiting, the market will be left solely to the bibliophiles (who might just be thrilled to have those pesky bidders go away), and prices may drop to the point where a literature dealer might not be able to call it a worthwhile profession. New blood can hardly be expected to be drawn to this field.

At the 2015 A.N.A. Convention in Rosemont, I sat through a presentation on the Newman Portal. One speaker noted that he had placed 1400 images of liberty seated dimes on the Internet and he encouraged others to do similar. His premise was that today's collector "wants everything on his phone," and that books are unnecessary and should not be published. Authors should upload their manuscripts directly to the cloud and not trouble themselves with printing, distributing and selling their works to recoup costs, to have lasting physical memorials to their efforts, or Heaven forbid, to make a profit. I recall that the reception among the authors in attendance was predictably ugly. Several months later in Baltimore, two collectors came to my booth, one particularly ashen-faced, asking what I thought of the Portal. He had six figures invested in his library and saw its value diminishing with each triumphant post on *The E-Sylum* noting what had just been scanned and uploaded.

In January I read that the A.N.S. had announced that all Coinage of the Americas Conference titles are headed to the Portal and that it would be just a matter of time before all their publications were there. Pity the poor soul who just paid \$1,000 at auction for a set of their *Sylloge Nummorum Graecorum*. In January, the A.N.S. published its Open Access policy and asked anyone to find fault with it—that is without mentioning money. They might have also challenged one to play golf without clubs or baseball with no balls. "Scholarly publications typically cater to a niche market and sell dozens or occasionally hundreds of copies over a period of three years. Sales beyond three years of the original publication date are rare." One has to wonder if titles that sold only dozens should have been published in the first place, or what the numismatic fraternity is doing to ensure a steady flow of new collectors who will buy books more than three years in publication.

Further, following his logic, we must assume that he is inferring that Christopher Eimer's second edition of *British Commemorative Medals* with 1900 copies sold in six years is not scholarly or that the subject matter of David Sear's title on the Roman Emperors, now out of print, is not a niche work. He should also note that virtually every title published by the Royal Numismatic Society in the first 25 years of its Special Publication Series is likewise out of print.

But his most Berning statement "As authors and as consumers of content, it is within your rights to ask (and in some cases demand) that your research (or the scholarship you need) be made openly available online," is one I find morally reprehensible. How dare he say that consumers of content have the right to demand that my research be made openly (read "for free") available! As a writer who has spent tens of thousands of hours researching and writing, the fruits of those labors seen in print

are some compensation. The profit derived from them has given me a living. [As one author recently commented, perhaps we should “demand” that Publication Managers work free of compensation; if we can’t make a living doing this, why should they?]

The inconsistency in policy between literature and coins at the A.N.S. is certainly remarkable. While copies of their publications may now be accessed gratis, the A.N.S. does not extend that policy to images of their coins. Recently a writer was quoted \$60 for a photograph of both sides of a single coin in the A.N.S. collection with rights to publish, “because the resulting book might make a profit” (and we want some of it). On re-direct, the amount was reduced to \$25, still not in keeping with a policy of “open access.”

For a decade, there was an infectious enthusiasm with numismatic literature. Armand Champa spent lavishly opening his house and library to some 40 individuals who were attending the 1988 A.N.A. Convention in nearby Cincinnati and followed it with a 46-case display in Chicago in 1991. He gave away thousands of dollars worth of books at A.N.A. Symposiums. Much of this was cold solid marketing for the eventual dispersal of his library, but his passion was genuine.

In 1993 at the Baltimore A.N.A. Convention, N.B.S. enjoyed its largest attendance at a general meeting—125 registered with chairs full and folks standing in the doorway and hall. One reporter wrote that “N.B.S. played to a full house. There was more brain power in that room than in the balance left on the bourse floor.” The next year in Detroit, attendance was 75 and I wondered what was wrong—had we bottomed out? Today I would pose that if N.B.S. ever came close to that 75 number again, it would be time to break out the single malt.

Perhaps we have been riding a crest of dual interest—research and collectability—in numismatic books not seen in other areas of interest to book collectors. This became recently apparent when a bookbinder we use was incredulous that the work I was asking him to repair would actually be used for research. Frankly he thought it was wall furniture.

So how does the Numismatic Bibliomania Society rekindle the enthusiasm of the past? It starts with those who have the most to protect by being the Champa of the 21st century. How long has it been since N.B.S. had a manned table at an A.N.A. or other major convention? How can we explain that there were no literature exhibits at the recently concluded convention at Anaheim? Why are N.B.S. meetings held during bourse hours when many members are at their tables? (See comment about attendance 1993-1994 above when meetings were held at 9:00 AM).

I regret that N.B.S. has been largely silent on the effects of the Portal, although by allowing its affiliate publication *The E-Sylum* to champion it, it has given tacit approval to this rather unstructured evolution. I wonder what N.B.S. co-founder Jack Collins would have written, milder by decorum I am sure than what he would have said. We are fortunate to have lived in the period in which we have, blessed to have been allowed to associate with an extraordinary group of numismatists. The libraries that have come out have made it a great run. Only time will tell if the future holds as much reward for the next generation as it has held for me and, I would imagine, my friends and colleagues.



Slicing the Bibliophilic Landscape

by Len Augsburger

Researcher, Author, Newman Numismatic Portal Project Coordinator

The intersection of technology and publishing promises a sea change in the sale and dissemination of numismatic literature, a niche market somewhat associated with the overall print publishing industry, but also driven by forces particular to numismatics. Commercial printing is larger than ever before, with lower cost color printing an ever increasingly affordable option. Offshore mass printing is relatively inexpensive, and the printing cost per unit can be surprisingly low. In 2015, *Forbes* reported a steadily growing, healthy print industry.¹

Books

While this bodes well for new works produced on a large scale, many numismatic specialty books are produced to the extent of a thousand copies or less and cannot leverage what has become an efficient pipeline for widely distributed commercial books. Thus, specialty books appear with varying levels of production quality and price points, corresponding to the graphics, computer, editorial, and business skill of their creators.

These self-published books are an important source of numismatic information, typically labors of love, and it is understandable that authors desire physical memorials to their years of effort. Dennis Tucker, writing in the July 2016 *Numismatist*, summed up many an author's attitude: "I don't care if this book makes a single dime, I just want to share my research with the hobby." Whether published through print-on-demand, vanity, or institutional presses, these works are by no means unworthy, and

PATERSON DAILY
AND
WEEKLY GUARDIAN.

PATERSON, N. J., Nov, 1, 1886

JOB PRINTING
OF
EVERY DESCRIPTION.

D. Prosky

Dr. to CARLETON M. HERRICK. <

> Broadway and Washington Street. <

Oct 30 Printing 600 Catalogues 25 30

Nov 22 '86 Sale - 23 pp

Recd Pmt Dec 1st

C. W. Hemmets

19.61
505
26.89

Receipt laid in Dan Hamelberg's copy of Proskey's sale #4, 11/22/1886.

a lack of commercial interest only means that an otherwise scholarly work is not necessarily profitable at the same time. Numismatics breeds specialization, as an effort to distinguish one's self seems inherent to the collecting impulse. For this reason it is likely that limited-print run works from specialist authors will continue to appear.

A notable exception is the Liberty Seated Collectors Club, whose members have produced three substantial die variety studies (for dimes, twenty-cent pieces, and dollars, listing over a thousand die marriages in total) that are freely available online. PCGS, NGC, and the major auction companies have adopted the Fortin attributions for Seated dimes, demonstrating widespread acceptance of a classification scheme that has never appeared in print. This reflects both a cultural and technological evolution. The current generation tends to be more collaborative and consensus driven, and today's technology enables this on a previously unattainable scale.

Into this mix of commercial and lower-run print works, we add the secondary market. Although some specialized works are produced via print-on-demand, most have had limited, fixed print runs. The secondary market thus plays an important role for researchers or specialized collectors. Serving this market are our well-known numismatic booksellers, in addition to online concerns such as Abebooks.com. Buyers in this space range from pure researchers (any copy will do) to pure bibliophiles (only the best copy will do).

The increasing online availability, especially of public domain works, will no doubt impact the "pure researcher" segment of this market. Google Books has scanned many of the standard sources, the American Numismatic Society (ANS) has placed its published works on HathiTrust.org, and the Newman Numismatic Portal has scanned over 8,000 documents, the vast majority previously unavailable in digital form. While pure researchers will gravitate to the online sources, the market effect will be gradual. Most individuals of a certain age greatly prefer hard copies for working purposes. This writer uses resources such as NewmanPortal.org or the ANS library catalog for search purposes, and then retrieves a hard copy from the personal library. This will change as younger generations who grew up in the Digital Age advance in the hobby.

On the other side of the spectrum, the pure bibliophile has little regard for online copies. A digitized copy of a print work is like a picture of a coin – convenient for reference but hardly a substitute for the real thing. Barbara Gregory noted in a recent *Numismatist* that there will always be an urge to connect with the past through physical objects. The urge to collect is closely related, and, while what we collect may change (bird's eggs were once quite popular), collecting itself seems to be wired into the human psyche. As long as American coin collecting remains popular, classic print items like plated Chapman catalogs, or original copies of Crosby's *Early Coins of America* will remain highly desirable.

Periodicals

Periodicals are more subject to traditional market forces than books. Commercial publications are highly dependent on advertising revenue, and numismatic dealers are faced with a wide variety of marketing options. In previous times, print absorbed the majority of the advertising budget, but today's sellers are instead allocating funds to web sites, Google ads, and other digital options. It is readily apparent that many of

the commercial numismatic publications are becoming thinner and reducing staff. The newspaper industry is likewise challenged, and the number of daily titles in the United States has fallen approximately 25% in the last generation.² Similar consolidation in the numismatic field seems inevitable. While there is no arguing the pleasantries of an overstuffed chair with a stack of recent trade publications at hand, this experience is going to be replaced with a smaller pile and an access device such as a phone or tablet.

The outlook for regional and specialty publications is better. These periodicals are fueled by non-profits and volunteer hours and so have much less demanding cost structures than commercial publications with full time staff and the usual overhead of doing business. These publications will rise and fall with the hobby itself, and, as long as there are collectors, there will be a segment of the hobby that devotes itself to recording today's events and research. The quality of these publications varies, in much the same way as self-published books. Some are quite nicely done and well worth the annual dues of the issuing organizations (insert shameless plug for *The Asylum* here).

Auction Catalogs

In 1886, David Proskey paid four cents each for 600 copies of his catalog of the Haines collection, the equivalent of four dollars today (see the image on page 29). The product was a black and white text-only description of the lots. Proskey likely wrote his catalog longhand, handed off to a typist, and then forwarded to the printer. Today's catalogs are prepared online, generally produced in color, and with a somewhat similar cost. This writer can anecdotally report eight dollars per copy, although this figure surely varies depending on the auction house and print volume.

Auction catalogs do not rely on advertising revenue, but instead are funded by the auctions themselves. These will continue to proliferate in relation to the size of the market, which in turn is not fueled as much by *supply* as by *turnover*. In theory, the supply of 19th century coins was precisely the same in 1900 as it today (with the exception of dug and shipwreck recoveries), and yet today's market is much faster paced with collections formed and dispersed at an energetic rate. Auction catalogs serve the important function of marketing these collections and will by necessity endure. Print volumes will likely decrease over time as buyers prefer online access, but the current older generation much prefers print.

Interestingly, the sheer magnitude of today's offerings precludes the systematic collecting of hardcopies. Heritage and Stack's/Bowers produce several linear feet of catalogs each year, and storage quickly becomes an issue, especially if one adds the various limited-edition deluxe copies. Despite large distribution, some of these may be scarce in the future, similar to U.S. Mint clad coinage, which for certain issues is surprisingly challenging when it comes to well-struck, very high grade examples. A like situation is *Coin World*, but, while a particular issue might be difficult to locate, it will have minimal value as only a handful of collectors would attempt a complete set. Thus, the top end here is limited – a specific 19th-century Woodward catalog that is hard to find might still only trade for \$50 or \$100.

Deluxe catalogs remain a popular way to commemorate “name” collections, and provide an archival record of a collector's accomplishments in an attractive physi-

cal form. This form of publication seems assured a healthy future, and the most important collections of recent times (Ford, Gardner, Newman, Pogue, etc.) are all so treated. Indeed, the production of these is competitive, with the Newman and Pogue volumes featuring embossed covers. These copies will always be more desirable than those produced for mass distribution. The deluxe copies of the Pittman sales have consistently performed well in the secondary market.

Summary

Numismatic literature is without doubt impacted by evolving technology, but even within this market niche the outlook is nuanced, depending on the revenue streams and other motivations of publishers. Researchers and collectors will always want to commemorate their work, but commercial periodicals are more highly dependent on an overall market that is evolving within the electronic domain. The ongoing strength of the hobby will in large part dictate the overall level of resources allocated to print publications.



NOTES

- 1 <http://www.forbes.com/sites/sageworks/2015/01/25/financial-analysis-of-print-industry/#34d00ce73226>
- 2 <http://www.statista.com/statistics/183408/number-of-us-daily-newspapers-since-1975/>

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The Economics of Numismatic Literature and Research

by David F. Fanning

Numismatic Bookseller and Researcher

The market for numismatic books has been changing radically in recent years and these changes affect collectors, booksellers and researchers in various ways. I am going to discuss three aspects of the current environment that are presently affecting the field of numismatic literature: the selling of printed books online; the digitization of numismatic literature; and the funding of numismatic research.

There are two areas of commercially desirable books right now: current references that are necessary to collectors and unavailable in digital form; and classic works that are scarce or rare and which are inherently collectible. Anything that falls in the middle—and *most* numismatic literature does exactly that—is very difficult to sell now. This has caught a lot of booksellers and collectors by surprise, but the explanation is fairly straightforward.

The internet is quite likely the most significant technological advance of the past fifty years. It has often been noted that the emergence of a global online community metaphorically shrunk the world: it made it far easier to contact people around the globe—cheaply, quickly and easily. This has affected the book market by exponentially increasing the number of bookstores in which a prospective customer can browse for books. Take a book that traditionally sold for \$50 and was offered in numismatic book catalogues two or three times a year. It wasn't rare, but it wasn't especially common, either. Now one can search half of the bookstores in the country from one's desk. We find that there are dozens of copies of this title available at any one time. As some bookselling operations make their money by selling thousands of books a month, there may be copies available for under \$10. This book, once something that a bookseller used to pay \$20 or \$30 for, has now become nearly worthless from a monetary perspective.

The advent of the internet has, of course, had many positive effects on the book market as well. It has made it possible for specialized booksellers like myself to more effectively locate copies of rare books for clients, and it has made it easier for potential customers to locate a bookseller who caters to their interests. But it is difficult to argue that it has not depressed the monetary value of many books.

The digitization of existing publications is a growing phenomenon that is also affecting the book market. Various digitization projects—in our own field, the Newman Numismatic Portal comes to mind—are trying to preserve printed materials by scanning them and making them available online, which also increases the potential audience for such materials.

It is quite easy to see the benefits of these projects. Anyone who routinely conducts research must acknowledge the utility of these tools in searching for information

across thousands of titles with the click of a button. Ignoring online resources such as the Newman Numismatic Portal would be as foolish as eschewing Ancestry.com when conducting genealogical research and heading instead for the local library's shelves. They are, as tools, simply too useful not to use.

But there are potential problems and pitfalls with such resources. As someone with academic training that was undertaken either before the World Wide Web existed or while it was in its infancy, I have noticed that the proliferation of online data has made many researchers quite lazy. It is so easy to find arcane and obscure information on the internet that one starts to assume that all information is available online—that there is no longer any reason to consult printed materials. Why get out of your chair when you can finish that article now?

The fact remains that most books are not online. Many are protected by copyright, making their free and unlimited distribution a violation of the copyright holder's rights. But even with books that are in the public domain, the fact remains that the majority of books have not been scanned. While projects like Google Books claim as their goal to scan every book published, the practicalities of so doing have yet to be worked out. The funding required for such projects is also considerable.

This brings me to my third point: the economics of information production and distribution. This is where copyright comes into play and where debates regarding so-called "Open Access" publishing tend to focus. Conducting research can be quite expensive, and the vast majority of numismatic books are published at a loss: especially if one takes into account the amount of time devoted to the project by the author. Given that most researchers in any field, including our own, genuinely want the results of their research to receive maximum distribution, there are certain merits to the Open Access model, which promotes the free (generally online) distribution of research. There are, however, significant drawbacks to it as well.

The main proponents of the Open Access model are academics and non-profit institutions. Both groups have a tendency to promote the illusion that they are above such squalid matters as money, while in fact both are deeply dependent upon it. As someone who has a Ph.D. but works outside academia, I would point out that there is no free research and no free publishing. Someone is paying for it: either the researcher him- or herself, or a sponsoring body that in most cases is dependent on either the largess of the wealthy or a government. I would suggest that a model that is dependent on either group is on a path fraught with peril. One can find any number of examples of what happens when a government doesn't care for the results of the research it funded. And one may be able to find examples in our field as well—as when a society is presented with an academically sound paper that reaches a conclusion critical of one of the society's more litigious members, for instance.

We are living in a period of transition regarding the production and distribution of knowledge. Virtually everything I've discussed in this brief piece has its benefits and drawbacks, opportunities and risks. And now I'm going to print this out and proof-read it, as I prefer that to reading on a screen.



A Positive Future for Numismatic Literature

by Elizabeth Hahn Bengé

Librarian and Researcher

As a former librarian and an active researcher, I have been intimately connected to numismatic literature for many years and experienced all sides of the growing role of digitization in the field. As the former librarian of the American Numismatic Society, I had access to the voluminous and superb resources of the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Library and I spent my six years working there to make those resources more widely available to an ever-larger audience. Despite being quite centrally located in the heart of New York City, many would-be users were understandably unable to make a trip to the physical facility but digitization (first of the library catalog) allowed them to access some of the resources of the institution.

Librarians, by profession, strive to make all types of information available. This was one of the main attractions of the profession to me and I believe that access to literature through digitization makes that possible on an exponentially greater level. (About halfway through my career at the ANS, I wrote in the fall 2012 issue of the *ANS Magazine* about how digitization might feature in the developments of the library). It is exciting to think of current trends and future projections and I believe the pros of digitization for the field far outweigh the cons. This includes increased access to information for a wider audience, helping the environment by reducing paper copies, convenience and comfort in accessing the information (I would have loved the opportunity to lighten my book bag load in college), space considerations (and less need to shelf-shift when collections physically grow), opportunities for simultaneous access by multiple users, and more.


The primary cons to digitization seem to often revolve around cost and copyright, both of which are very real obstacles that I have encountered in my library career. It can also be a challenge to adapt to the fast pace of the new and changing technology and I admit to still enjoying reading and acquiring paper copies of books and journals. There may also be cons for the authors, who rely on royalties of their publications and online access may make it easier to distribute unpaid-for copies. However, since the technology of scanning and the Internet exist, I think this would happen regardless of whether digitization was embraced or not. The Newman Numismatic Portal project has found ways to address the budget and copyright issues and provides a nice example of how digitization can be embraced for the field of numismatic literature. The recent launch of the new ANS website, featuring regular issues of the *ANS Magazine* with current issues only available to members also sheds a positive light on this approach.

Some might think that increased access to digital collections will result in less traffic to libraries. I think the opposite might be true – the digital collections will make users aware of the existence of more collections and this will drive them to seek them

out in person for additional information that might only be gleaned from a physical inspection of the item, especially in the case of rare books. This brings us back to another pro, where scanning of rare books that might result in increased access will also ensure less physical handling of the item, and no doubt extend the preservation and condition of the physical book.

Now that I am no longer working directly in a library environment, I feel that my position advocating for digitization and increased digital collections has only strengthened. In my new role I am much more active as a researcher, and being able to take advantage of the growing online numismatic resources has been rewarding. I still make regular use of the ANS online library catalog, DONUM, to find the articles that I need, but rather than constantly asking Librarian David Hill for scans, I am able to take the bibliographic information I find and locate many of the titles on an increasingly vast assortment of databases. For now, I do think there will always be both a practical and aesthetic use for physical books, but as someone who likes to see the glass as half-full, I am excited to think about the growing access to numismatic literature that digitization promises.



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	<p>¹ Significant Other to a Regular Member ² Age 18 or Younger</p>

Aspects of Numismatic Literature Digitization

By Dan Hamelberg

Collector and researcher

The large scale digitization of numismatic literature has arrived. A few years ago the ANS started a program to digitize fragile catalogs and select archival materials in order to preserve the original copies, but still allow access to rare materials for information and research. Wayne Homren's *E-Sylum* has occasionally displayed covers and pages of select numismatic literature. Private parties have scanned and sent pages of numismatic information to each other for some time. What started as a small scale endeavor has turned into a major project. The Newman numismatic portal has arrived. Through the generosity of Eric Newman, numismatics' most distinguished statesman, the digitization of numismatic literature is now a large scale operation. Additional recognition goes to Len Augsburg for his administration and active management of the operation. Scanning equipment has been set up at the ANS to digitize the important literature and archival materials contained in the world's largest numismatic library. Additionally, scanning equipment is set up in St. Louis, Missouri, the home of the Newman numismatic portal, to digitize materials from the Newman library and other important sources. The ambitious goal is to digitize all available numismatic literature. Welcome to the digital world of numismatic literature where all scanned information will be accessible to all researchers, collectors and interested parties.

How will digitization impact the hobby of numismatic literature? What will be some of the advantages and disadvantages of digitization?

Disadvantages

Some of the drawbacks of numismatic literature digitization might involve copyright and ownership issues which could result in some scanned literature being incomplete or misrepresented. Most likely much of the more recently copyrighted and published materials will not be available for digitization, and as a result, some specialized topics could be limited in scope.

The value of the more common and recently available numismatic literature could be impacted by digitization. Historically, most numismatic literature has increased in value over time. Increased values range from slow and steady for more common material to great and astounding for unique and rare items. Free digital access to common and available materials will most likely reduce the demand for the hard copies and consequently stabilize or in some cases reduce the values of such materials in the marketplace.

Numismatic literature auctions and dealer fixed price lists might become more specialized in the future. With digitization comes a possible decreased demand for hard copies of common and available materials. As a result, numismatic booksellers

might have an expanded focus on specialized materials, limited editions, rare and out of print items, newly copyrighted materials, etc.

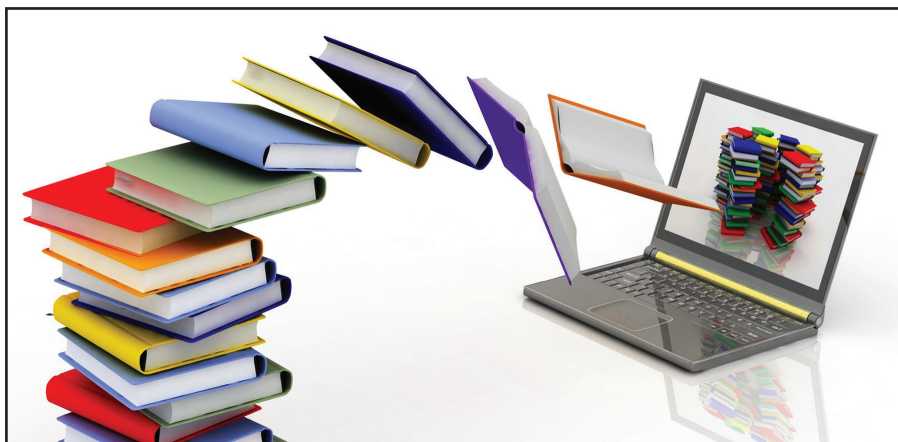
As a result of digitization, numismatic literature researchers and collectors will be able to reduce their visits to libraries and museums if they are able to access desired information from internet sources. This could impact the libraries and museums that rely on a certain amount of visits from patrons, and, consequently, hours of operation and general accessibility of information might be adjusted to reflect reduced demand.

Advantages

Some of the problems and drawbacks of digitizing numismatic literature as mentioned above have a flip side of possible advantages.

Numismatic libraries and museums could reduce the purchases of materials if the same and similar items are available on line at no cost. Additionally, with less visits, libraries could reduce hours of operation and space for viewing which could result in smaller and more affordable budgets. Less required hard copy storage might be a factor in budget reduction as well. Certainly a two-edged sword where less library purchases and reduced patron visits would not be a prime objective, but as a result, budgets and space requirements might be a better fit with available funds.

Values of common and available numismatic literature might stabilize and possibly decline with digitization, but the values of rare and limited available materials could be enhanced. Consider rarities in fine art. There are many illustrations online, reproductions and copies of certain rare fine art paintings, but the value of the originals usually increase each time a sale takes place. Limited edition prints by famous artists are often copied and commonly illustrated online. Nevertheless, the value of original limited edition prints can increase despite the widespread access of online illustrations and availability of reproductions. Rare books have been scanned and made available for viewing online, but the values of the originals continue to increase. Any suggestion that wide-spread online access to illustrations of rare numismatic literature might lower the value of the originals runs counter to price trends in other collectible fields as illustrated above. Serious collectors will almost always prefer to own original literature even when the materials are online to view and reproductions




are available. Online access to rare numismatic literature might actually create greater demand for the originals with a corresponding increase in prices.

Access to a wide spectrum of numismatic literature online will most certainly have a beneficial effect on researching and collecting. Collectors will have the opportunity to easily view items of interest and as the amount of online information increases, the need to conduct research at distant libraries and museums decreases. Less travel and more viewing opportunities should allow for more research and information gathering. Numismatic literature digitization will enable dedicated collectors and researchers to generate new materials on subjects of interest that will benefit the entire hobby. Coin collectors will have information available online that may allow them to discover previous owners of coins in their collection. Past ownership can have a significant effect on the value of rare coins.

“One-stop shopping” on the Newman numismatic portal should also provide hours of enjoyment for literature collectors and provide opportunities to see some of the rarest literature in the hobby.

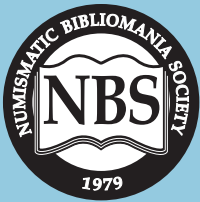
In summary, it would appear that the digitization of numismatic literature will have a positive effect on the hobby. Collectors and researchers will have access to a tremendous amount of numismatic information. Numismatic libraries and museums can economize on storage and access facilities. Pride in ownership will continue to confront the supply and demand of rare numismatic literature with the outcome resulting in greater values and greater general interest in the hobby of numismatic literature.






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History in Your Hands Foundation: A New Approach to Teaching History

by Shanna Berk Schmidt

Numismatic Researcher and Coin Dealer

I am always a little amused when asked by strangers or new acquaintances what my profession is. It normally goes something like this: “A what? A nu-mis-ma-tist? What is that?”. That is followed by the long pause and then my comes my routine answer, “well, I work with ancient coins.....a coin dealer and researcher in my family business”. On the other hand I am equally proud to work in a trade as special as mine. My prior career was in advertising so espousing history is a lot better than selling paper towels (true story....one of my clients was P&G Bounty paper towels when I worked in Frankfurt, Germany).

I have two boys, ages 12 and 15. Over the years I have done several presentations on coins and history at the elementary and middle school level at their respective schools. I would present various historical coins spanning from c. 650 BC, the advent



Students begin a personal journey through history using original source material with the History in Your Hands Foundation.



of coinage as we know it from Asia Minor (modern day Turkey) through present day. The children were invariably engaged and interested. On several occasions some children would approach me afterwards and ask if they could visit our store to learn more. A few actually did come! It was a special treat for the students to learn about history in a more tactile way and for me especially fulfilling to be able to provide that experience.

My brothers who work with me, share in the vision of teaching kids using historical objects. At a young age we were all surrounded with incredible objects and it made a lasting impression on us so much so that each of us over time found our calling in the family business. Today each of us have learned our craft as experts in coins, antiquities, antique maps and currency and enjoy sharing our knowledge. The marriage of teaching history and using historical objects is a powerful thing. History in Your Hands Foundation grew out of this realization.

History in Your Hands Foundation (HIYHF) is still being developed but the long-term goals are far reaching. We envision integration of our program into the curriculum of grammar, secondary and high school history or world studies classes. At the moment our major sources of funding are two events that HIYHF will sponsor, the Chicago International Map Fair (CIMF) and the Chicago Coin Expo (CCE) which will be held at the Chicago Cultural Center in October (28-30) and April (5-8) respectively. Net proceeds from ticket and booth sales will go directly to the HIYHF and should help provide necessary resources for additional lecturers and support for the future strength of the foundation.

Presentations in schools can be catered to whatever the teacher wishes. Optimally HIYHF should function as a seamless part of the teacher's lesson plan and not as a quasi 'show and tell'. Any area of history is feasible when working with historical ar-



tefacts, whether it be ancient Greek, Roman, Byzantine, Medieval, U.S. or world history. Finding the right material for presentations will be facilitated by the amazing generosity of private collectors. Many of the pieces used for presentations will come from collectors that want to temporarily share their private collections with children in order for them to better understand and connect with historical events. Whether HIYHF presents artefacts from the powerful Greek empire under Alexander the Great or zinc-coated steel pennies used in the U.S. during WWII, objects can impress and create a greater impact. Many teachers and educators agree that using objects is a better motivator for learning. Just ask Phyl Waddell, the wife of coin dealer Edward Waddell, who recently completed her doctoral dissertation on using historical objects within the classroom to

help students learn better. In an email to me Phyl suggested the following, “my premise was that if the students had lifestyle info added to the historical info, they would be more interested in the history itself, therefore learn the history better. The history test scores from the students who had both the textbook info plus my additions were 82% higher than the test scores of the students who had just the usual history textbook info” (From email dated 6/29/16).

HIYHF made its first presentations last May at three vastly different schools. Each presentation was specially composed for its audience. The first, on May 11, 2016 was held at the University of Chicago for a class on numismatics composed of undergraduates and graduate students. The presentation was an overview of coins from different periods that the students had been studying over the course of the semester. The professor, Alain Bresson, worked in tandem with my brother Aaron and myself to present coins and make connections to themes discussed previously during classes. Coins were primarily shown from several Greek city states and the Roman Empire. After our visit, Alain wrote a short summary for us:

“Although the students were of course better prepared than an audience of non-specialists, it was for them of exceptional interest to have ‘coins in their hands,’ these coins that we had been talking about for weeks. The artistic achievement of an early electrum coin came as a real surprise. Another surprise was to discover silver obols: it is one thing to speak

of them as ‘small change,’ and it is another to discover that actually they were so small! Manipulating coins gave also rise to more technical debates and this was the opportunity to compare modern American coins with ancient Greek coins. The diversity of the coins that were presented, from early electrum coins to Byzantine gold solidi, allowed the students to have the *longue durée* approach of the phenomenon of ancient coinage. The day will certainly remain in the memory of every participant!”

- **Alain Bresson** | Robert O. Anderson Distinguished Service Professor, Department of Classics & Department of History, The University of Chicago

The next presentations took place at Benito Juarez High School in Chicago on May 16, 2017. This varied in context and approach from the presentation at the University of Chicago. Instead of utilizing ancient coins, our team presented historical coins, paper money and maps from early colonial and U.S. history. The audience was composed of almost predominantly Latino sophomores. Again, HIYHF worked with teacher Andy Pascarella to *integrate* our use of historical objects into the planned curriculum. A few comments that Andy made after our visit:

“Holding a coin that was held by ancient Greeks or Romans connects students to the ancient world in a way that a history textbook cannot.”

“As a result of the History in Your Hands Foundation, my students started to identify bias in early map making. My students no longer see historical maps as objective information but rather as tools to promote an agenda. Recognizing the point of view, purpose and audience of these maps will make my students more critical readers and consumers of contemporary media as well.”

- **Andy Pascarella** | CPS Teacher, Benito Juarez High School

Cicero East Elementary was the last school HIYHF visited before the 2015-2016 school year ended. We worked with a fourth grade class again containing many students of Latino background. HIYHF worked with teacher Colin Fahey to “transform his room into an interactive museum”. The lesson plan was decided between Mr. Fahey and HIYHF co-founder Sammy Berk on what was most suitable to teach the children about U.S. geography in a hands-on setting. The kids were asked to point out interesting things on the maps that they viewed and use post-it notes to collect their thoughts to share for later. These notes were used for discussion points later on in which the children could learn some of the inadequacies in early cartography. A comment from Mr. Fahey after the visit:

“The material brought into our 4th grade class was reflective of what a child’s imagination would conjure when thinking of old maps. The imaginary lakes and islands, the sea monsters, and the skewed projection of the world as we know it today, captured the attention of the students in a way that stands out from any other history based activity we had done

all year. The students were able to view and handle old maps, some of which dated back to the mid-16th century, and come up with questions and observations to be discussed with the presenter in both one on one and group settings. It was a unique and engaging experience to have our homeroom turned into an interactive museum for that afternoon.”

– **Colin Fahey** | CPS Teacher, Cicero East Elementary

The upcoming school year will be the true introduction for HIYHF. In November, HIYHF will present its vision to social science and history teachers at a CPS sponsored workshop for programs in the 2016-2017 school year. The initial meeting with Forrest Claypool and Annette Gurley was positive and it was felt that such a program would benefit CPS students. Despite the extensive network of CPS schools, HIYHF will still visit other schools in other areas outside the Chicago area. The program is being welcomed by most schools that we are contacting.

HIYHF can bring so much more than educational enlightenment to students. It also can stimulate an interest in collecting and further promote the enjoyment in learning history for students. An important goal of the foundation is to make learning history more fun and thrilling for students. Another goal is to show how wonderful cooperation between collector, trade and students can be. Long ago before restrictions on coins and objects were even a thought, there was an open relationship between all. Unfortunately this has been tarnished by the perceived effects of looting. HIYHF can help to change this strained relationship by sharing legitimate but pre-1970 objects and coins. If those in the coin industry can help supply something tangible and inspiring towards educating young minds then the goals of HIYHF can be fully realized.

One example of how the HIYHF presentations can offer further benefits is best exemplified by a situation that occurred after our University of Chicago presentations. A student in the class reached out afterwards and asked to come in to research coins from Syracuse for a paper he was writing. This was the perfect opportunity to utilize the HJB Numismatic Library (also see the article written by me in *The Asylum* Summer 2016 issue). During our presentation we pointed out that we had a numismatic library that was available for public use. Numismatic literature, by and large, is still heavily utilized by dealers and collectors alike for research and attribution. HIYHF foundation can help create a bridge to education by allowing students and collectors to enjoy the HJB Numismatic library. With our extensive library we can help interested students in learning all that they can about ancient coins.

Anyone interested in donating objects, time or money to the HIYHF should visit the HIYHF website at www.hiyhf.org.



Eid Mar coin (42 BC) celebrating the assassination of Julius Caesar experienced by a 5th grader.



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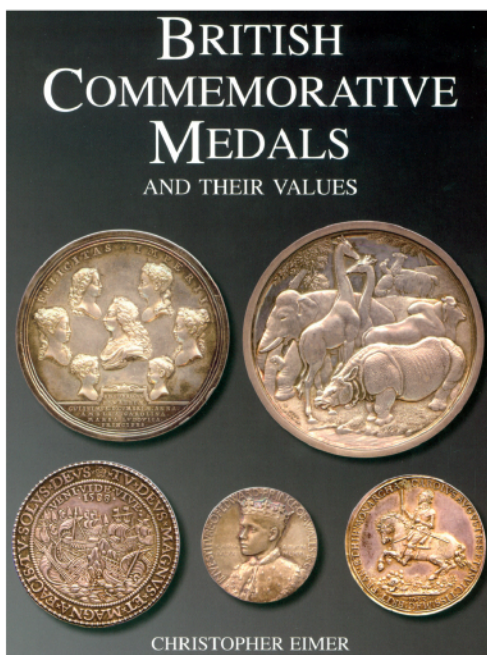
History In Your Hands Foundation® is a not-for profit organization that cooperates with collectors and museums to promote a deeper understanding of the world by putting remarkable pieces of history in the hands of our kids. Literally.

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